

Occurrence of unforeseen circumstances during the Medical School Applied Knowledge Test (MS AKT) – information for medical students

About the MS AKT

The Medical School Applied Knowledge Test (MS AKT) forms part of the Medical Licensing Assessment (MLA). The AKT has been developed collaboratively with medical schools, through support from the Medical Schools Council, and is constructed centrally, delivered locally and approved and quality assured by the General Medical Council. Medical schools are responsible for delivering the MS AKT and setting local policies using a nationally agreed framework.

What happens when an incident occurs during the MS AKT?

The delivery of the MS AKT has been through robust piloting, and while every endeavour will be made to ensure there is no disruption during your assessment, there may be unforeseen incidents that may impact the exam. Sometimes an incident can arise as consequence of a local issue, for example a Wi-Fi outage or an evacuation due to a fire alarm. There are other incidents that would be considered a national issue.

If a problem arises, your medical school will be in immediate contact with the MSC. We will work with your medical school to identify the cause of the issue and rectify it as quickly as possible to minimise disruption. Part of this investigation will involve identifying whether the incident has been caused by a local issue or a national one.

During an incident, your medical school will confirm with affected students that an issue has arisen and is being investigated. It is not always possible to provide detailed information to students immediately, especially if you are still taking the assessment. The priority during the assessment period is to provide timely information about the delivery of the examination (such as updates on any time adjustments, exam stoppage time etc).

If your assessment is able to continue, your medical school will be able to provide a summary of what happened and how it was resolved after the exam concludes. The timeframe for sharing this information will vary, as medical schools and the MSC will need sufficient time to properly investigate what happened. In these instances, we

understand students will have questions, and we appreciate your patience while we determine the answers.

If an incident requires an exam to be stopped before it has been completed, your medical school will confirm why this decision has been made. We will need sufficient time to investigate the cause. The MSC, and your medical school are committed to providing timely and accurate information to students as soon as it is available.

Most communications to students will come through your medical school after liaising with the MSC.

Contingency arrangements

All medical schools will have a contingency plan should a major incident take place during the exam delivery. The worst case scenario is that the exam cannot be delivered on the scheduled date. Medical schools have therefore been asked to identify which future scheduled AKT date they would use as their contingency plan. **You should ensure that you can be available to attend an in-person assessment at your medical school on this date (which will be provided by your school) in the event that it is required.**

If a possible solution can be found, the exam will continue. Other adjustments in this circumstance could include additional compensatory time being added during an assessment. The exact arrangement will depend on the incident that has arisen; your medical school will work closely with the MSC to determine an appropriate and fair adjustment and ensure that if an incident affects more than one school, there is equality in terms of any adjustments across all affected schools.

What to do if you have specific concerns

We want all medical students to feel that the MS AKT is a fair and equal assessment. If you have any particular concerns, please pass these on to your medical school and they will feedback directly to us. We also work closely with the BMA Medical Students Committee and are happy to receive feedback via your student BMA representative.

Last updated August 2024.